

Process Servers, Court and Clerk's Office Information and Exchange Presentation

Minutes for October 15, 2008

Welcoming Remarks

- Honorable Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of the Superior Court, welcomed the group to the meeting. The meeting started at 12:00. **The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 21st, 2009 at 12:00** and will be held in the Downtown Justice Center, 620 West Jackson, in the 2nd floor CTS Training Room Suite 2083. Parking is available in the parking structure across the street at 601 West Jackson.

The new Process Server's 2009 meeting calendar is now available on the Clerk's Internet site at:
http://www.clerkofcourt.maricopa.gov/Process_Server/calendar/PS-Y2009CAL.pdf

Budget Status Update

- Mr. Jeanes reviewed the budget status, resources and impact. Explaining the County has been and will remain in a hiring freeze with the recovery date that is unknown at this time; several economists have estimated four to five years. The Clerk's office is continually monitoring the lines at all of the counters and we will continue striving to offer the best possible service in a bad situation but things will get worse before they get better.

eFile and ECR Online Update

- Mr. Jeanes provided an update on the continuing eFile initiatives and the Clerk's Electronic Court Record ECR Online. He explained the Permissive Administrative Order allowing eFiling in all Civil and Family cases, this has been introduced to the Chief Justice and she does recognize the need for the order. When the order is signed this will allow any of these case types to be eFiled if the filer chooses with the possibility of beginning in as soon as 30 days. This does not include Affidavits of Service or Case Initiation documents. They will continue to be filed as paper at this time.
 - Question; "How does this affect subpoenas?" Mr. Jeanes explained the State Bar Staff has submitted the proposal to the Supreme Court and is currently working on a program. This will allow attorneys to electronically process their own subpoenas. It is anticipated that this program will be ready for testing around the end of this year. Then Maricopa County will do testing and upon approval the program will go live by agreement of the remaining 15 County Clerks.

New Mandatory Statewide CV Cover Sheet

- Lauri Thomas explained that beginning 1/2009 all Arizona Counties will be using a universal statewide Civil Cover Sheet. The AOC will post the new Civil Cover sheet on their web site, as well as the Clerk's office, please continue to check the web sites for updates on this.

Depository Box Update

- Lauri Thomas shared the new location for the night depository box on 4th Avenue between Madison and Jefferson has been up and running since August 15, 2008. There is parking and security available at this location although it is not ideal. Lauri explained the options and benefits to this location and asked for an opinion from those in the group. As to whether it should be moved to an alternate location at the Customer Service Center (CSC). There were several attendees' that did say "Where it is, will be fine for the time being". Lauri stated the issue will be reviewed again in January 2009.

Justice Court

- Honorable Judge Sam Goodman addressed the group explaining the Justice Courts are also affected by the hiring freeze and cut backs. They would still like to encourage open communication. Also that the Justice Court boundaries will be shifting again and two new Justice Courts will be opening in January of 2009, Highland Justice Court in Chandler and the Desert Ridge at the NE Facility.

- Mr. Jeanes asked that for future agendas that Judge Goodman be added to a later position on the agenda allowing him the required travel time.
- The statement was added that the link on the Clerks web site was not available for the minutes of the last meeting July 2008.
After checking on the link, it was available but there was an error on the web page. It has since been corrected the minutes were available the same business day, 10/15/2008.

Probate Rules Update

- Mr. Jeanes announced the new Probate Rules that will go into effect 1/2009
<http://www.supreme.state.az.us/rules/2008%20Rules%20a/R-07-0012combined.pdf>
http://www.supreme.state.az.us/rules/Recent_rules.htm

Question; "If the Clerks Office could post all changes that would pertain to the Process Servers?" Mr. Jeanes explained he didn't know if that would be something that would be feasible for the Clerk's office to provide, but that he would look into the possibility and he would have Aaron Nash review Rule 28 concerning our responsibility.

http://www.dnnsupremecourt.state.az.us/Portals/0/NTForums_Attach/1427154991458.pdf
Rule 28

Entrance for West Court Building (WCB)

- The entrance on Third Avenue between Jefferson and Madison for the WCB will be closed as of 11/01/2008 for three weeks. This is being done for construction and building changes. When it reopens it will be an employee entrance and not a public entrance.

Process Server Cards

- The issue of Process Server Cards had been requested by the Process Servers to be added to the agenda. However the attendance of Lindy DeCastro of AL-CORL, a company that could be a solution for issuing Process Server Cards was not made known to the office before the meeting began. Mr. Jeanes did say they were welcome to stay, but there are certain Vendor Protocols the office must follow to procure a bid for any new supply and that no order could be placed in light of the budget and expenditures. In review, the company and the services they supply are not something the Clerks office could even entertain at this time. Mr. Jeanes explained that certainly any proposal that was prepared and followed the required protocols would be reviewed.
 - Question; "If the Process Server's were to designate a fund, raise the money and purchase the equipment as a group, then donate it to the Clerk's office, would this be a possibility for the Clerk's office to use equipment and change the Process Server's Cards?"
 - Mr. Jeanes explained, sure that is a possibility but there are still donation protocols that must be followed and the Board of Supervisors would have to approve any donations.

Mr. Jeanes explained that if any one has any issues that come they are welcome to contact Lauri Thomas at LThomas@COSC.maricopa.gov we will always try to resolve any problems as quickly as possible. Having no additional items, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED:

Wednesday, January 21st, 2009 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM
620 WEST Jackson – 2nd FLOOR- CTS TRAINING ROOM #2083